

DAT notes for March 22, 2012

Attendees: Angela Llaban, Edmund Yu, and Wenli Yin (DWR), Shing Kong (CCWD), Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (CDFG), Erin Gleason, Jon Speegle and Craig Anderson (FWS), RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Tom Boardman (SLDMWA)

Salmonid Monitoring

Species*	Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST	Tisdale Weir RST	Knights Landing RST
Date		3/15/2012-3/21/2012	3/15/2012-3/21/2012
CHNF		2079	889
CHNLF			
CHNW		2	1
CHNS		55	82
CHN hatchery		1	
SH wild			1
SH hatchery		3	
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead			

Total catch of fall-run Chinook includes un-clipped Chinook only. A considerable increase in fall-run Chinook catch was observed with an increase in Sacramento River flows due to the recent storm.

A summary of Chinook monitoring data can be found at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

Delta Monitoring

Trawl and Seine Report for 3/11/2012 to 3/17/2012				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale KDTR	Sacramento KDTR	Chippis Is MWTR
CHNF	152		63	
CHNLF				
CHNW			6	1
CHNS	11		15	
CHN hatchery				1
SH wild				
SH hatchery			3	1
DSM	3 (Liberty Island, 65-72mm, 2 expressed milt)		10 (64-73mm, 8 expressed milt)	18 (57-70mm, 1 expressed milt, 2 expressed eggs)
LFS				2
SPLT	5		1	8
*Chinook race based on length; CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail				

Salvage

Salmonids - Salvage report for 3/12/2012 to 3/18/2012								
	CVP				SWP			
Species	Adipose Clip Hatchery		Non-Adipose Clip Wild		Adipose Clip Hatchery		Non-Adipose Clip Wild	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF								
Total to Date							4	16
CHNLF								
Total to Date	24	20	19	14				
CHNW	7	7	125	106			3	13
Total to Date	184	139	229	192	197	876	240	1046
CHNS			16	12			1	4
Total to Date			20	15			1	4
SH	71	48	8	5	8	35		
Total to Date	186	126	22	15	83	360	16	70
Chinook race based on length; Adipose fin clips indicates hatchery stock; Non-adipose clip indicates natural origin. SWP steelhead loss = salvage x 4.33, CVP steelhead loss = salvage x 0.68.								

Smelts and Others – Salvage report for 3/12/2012 to 3/18/2012				
	CVP		SWP	
Species	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM	4	102	4	92
LFS	20	76	134	194
SPLT	8	243	12	3830
GST				
WST		64		
DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon				

The cumulative loss of winter-run Chinook as of March 20 is 1,353. The seasonal incidental take level for natural origin winter-run Chinook is 3,241. In general, there continues to be salvage of non-clipped winter-run and non-clipped spring-run Chinook. Non-clipped and clipped steelhead were salvaged at the state facility. Only non-clipped steelhead were salvaged at the federal facility for the period of reporting.

As of March 18, the cumulative salvage of delta smelt is 194. The cumulative take limit for adult delta smelt is 2,487.

There was an increase in salvage of longfin smelt juveniles at the state facility. No larval delta smelt < 20 mm FL were reported in larval fish samples through 3/18/2012 at the federal facility and through 0900 hours on 3/15/2012 at the state facility. Larval longfin smelt were found in larval fish samples at the federal facility during the period from 3/12/2012 to 3/18/2012 and at the state facility during the period from 1500 hours on 3/8/2012 to 0900 hours on 3/15/2012.

Salvage information is posted at <ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/> (you can also try <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx>) and click on "salvage FTP site"). Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon salvage data is located in the tables under the folder "DOSS salvage tables". Smelt salvage data is located under the folder "Daily Smelt Summary".

Smelt Monitoring

20mm Survey #1 was completed and all 47 stations were sampled. Catch data processing is ongoing. Preliminary data indicate that 9 adult delta smelt were caught and a total of 309 longfin smelt (6-24mm) were caught. Survey data are posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>. The 20mm Survey #2 will begin on March 26.

Smelt Larva Survey #6 was completed on March 24 and data should be available on the website by tomorrow, March 23. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>

Smelt Working Group

The SWG met on Monday March 19 and discussed all the usual data, field survey results, salvage, etc. The group recommended that environmental conditions and expected operations over the next week were sufficiently protected of delta smelt from entrainment. No changes in operations are necessary.

Smelt Working Group notes are posted at <http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/OCAP/index.cfm>

DOSS

DOSS met on March 20 and reviewed fish monitoring and salvage data. The Chinook loss density trigger of 2.5 fish/TAF was exceeded on March 18. CDFG's estimate of combined older juvenile Chinook loss density was 4.89 fish/TAF. DOSS advised NMFS and WOMT that the OMR flow of -3,500 cfs per RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management) continue to be implemented until March 23 based on a new 5 day action starting on Monday, March 19. If the loss density is < 2.5 fish/TAF for the last 3 consecutive days of the action response, the projects may relax the OMR criteria to no more negative than -5,000 cfs.

On March 20, 2012, the combined older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density exceeded the second stage trigger of 5.0 fish/TAF in Action IV.2.3. CDFG's estimate of combined older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density was 8.02 fish/TAF. Pursuant to NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3, Reclamation and DWR shall manage exports to achieve an OMR flow of -2,500 cfs for a minimum of 5 consecutive days. Day 1 of the action response will be on Friday, March 23, 2012. The loss density must be less than 5.0 fish/TAF for the last 3 consecutive days of the action response before the OMR flow can be relaxed to more negative than -2,500 cfs.

Per the joint stipulation filed in the Consolidated Salmonid Cases (litigation relating to the NMFS BiOp on long-term operations of the CVP and SWP), NMFS has issued a technical memorandum describing April-May 2012 management of Old and Middle River flows to be implemented (along with installation of a rock barrier at the head of Old River) in lieu of the inflow:export ratio of Action IV.2.1 of the NMFS BiOp. The technical memorandum is available here: http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/2012_stipulation.htm

Starting next week, DOSS will provide advice on OMR flows as described in the technical memorandum. OMR flow levels will be determined by a modeling approach (DSM2 Hydro and Particle Tracking Model) for the first half of April (Apr 1-14). Between April 15 and May 31, OMR levels will be determined by a "managed-risk experimental" approach which includes OMR experimental treatment levels and a sentinel fish trigger for OMR management.

During April and May 2012, both Action IV.2.3 and the OMR management described in the tech memo (in lieu of Action IV.2.1) will be in place. DOSS will provide advice for both actions. The action that is more restrictive will control operations.

DOSS notes are posted at <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>

Operations

Summary for March 22, 2012			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court (cfs)	1,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	2,800
Outflow (cfs)	30,300	American - Nimbus (cfs)	1,100
Feather - Oroville (cfs)	1,750	Sacramento - Keswick (cfs)	3,250
San Luis Total (TAF)	1,721	Stanislaus - Goodwin (cfs)	
San Luis Share (TAF)	982	San Luis Share (TAF)	
X2 (Km)	63		
E/I (%)	10.5		
OMR (daily)			
OMR 5 day (cfs)	-2,329		
OMR 14 day (cfs)	-2,306		

Daily operations summary can be viewed at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>

A CalFedOps meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday March 28, 2012 at 1pm. Meeting information is posted at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/index.cfm>

Next meeting: The next DAT call is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2012.